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Commission de la Qualité de l'Environnement KATIVIK

KATIVIK Environmental Quality Commission

**Quebec Environmental and Social Impact Assessment and
Review Procedures North of the 55th Parallel
Guide for Proponents**

The Kativik Environmental Quality Commission has prepared this guide to inform promoters wishing to carry out projects north of the 55th parallel about the procedures necessary to obtain the required authorizations of the Quebec Ministry of Environment.

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Quebec Environmental and Social Impact Assessment and Review Procedures North of the 55th Parallel

Guide for Proponents

1. PURPOSE

This guide, prepared by the **Katikiv Environmental Quality Commission**, is designed to inform promoters wishing to carry out projects north of the 55th parallel about the procedures necessary to obtain the required authorizations of the Quebec Ministry of Environment (MENVIQ).

2. SUMMARY OF THE STAGES IN THE EVALUATION PROCEDURE

- 2.1 The project promoter must consult the **Environmental Quality Act** (ch. Q-2) to determine whether his project is subject to the evaluation procedure. Unless the project is clearly defined in **Schedule B of the Act (Projects Automatically Exempt from the Assessment and Review Procedure)**, the promoter must send the preliminary information on his project to the deputy-minister of the **MENVIQ**.
- 2.2 The deputy-minister sends the preliminary information to the **Commission**.
- 2.3 If the project is not clearly defined in **Schedule A of the Act (Projects Automatically Subject to the Assessment and Review Procedure)**, the **Commission** reviews the preliminary information and decides whether to subject the project to the procedure or not. It forwards this decision to the deputy-minister who in turn sends the promoter a statement of exemption.
- 2.4 In the case of a project automatically subject to the assessment and review procedure or one that is subjected by a decision of the **Commission**, the preliminary information is examined and guidelines concerning the nature and scope of the impact assessment to be prepared by the promoter are proposed to the deputy-minister in the form of recommendations.
- 2.5 The deputy-minister decides on the nature and scope of the impact assessment and forwards his decision to the promoter in the form of guidelines.

- 2.6 The promoter prepares the impact statement according to the guidelines given to him and sends the report and an application for a certificate of authorization to the deputy-minister.
- 2.7 The deputy-minister submits the impact statement to the **Commission**.
- 2.8 In consultation with the **Commission**, the deputy-minister decides whether the file is complete and if not, he may require that the promoter conduct supplementary research and studies.
- 2.9 The **Commission** examines the impact assessment statement and accepts written representations from any person or group which decides to submit them. The **Commission** may invite interested persons to make representations to it.
- 2.10 After studying the project, the impact assessment statement and the representations, the **Commission** decides whether or not to authorize the project and, as the case may be, under what conditions. **This decision is sent to the deputy-minister within ninety (90) days of the date on which he notified the Commission that the file on the project was complete.** However, if this project is not listed in **Schedule A (Projects Automatically Subject)** and the **Commission** decides to subject it to the procedure (see step 2.3 above), the period is forty-five (45) days. The deputy-minister can grant an extension if the nature or importance of the project merits it.
- 2.11 The deputy-minister applies the decision of the **Commission** and issues either a **certificate of authorization** with the conditions set by the **Commission** or a written notice of refusal to the promoter.
- 2.12 The deputy-minister can, for cause, modify the **Commission's** decision with the approval of the Minister.
- 2.13 **Additional authorizations:** undergoing this procedure does not in any way exempt the promoter from obtaining the other authorizations required for his project. Such is the case for certain muni-

cipal infrastructure projects, for example, which must also be authorized under the provisions of chapter I of the **Environmental Quality Act**.

In some cases, these authorizations are a necessary first step to be eligible for government grant programs. To avoid any useless delay in carrying out his project, the promoter must ensure that it has been approved by the **Ministry of Environment**.

NATURE AND SCOPE OF PRELIMINARY INFORMATION AND THE IMPACT ASSESSMENT STATEMENT

1 Preliminary information should:

- clearly identify the promoter of the project;
- describe the project, its objectives and its integration in the region;
- specify whether two or more variations of the project are to be considered;
- give the precise location of the project with large scale maps or, if possible, aerial photographs;
- state the expected starting date of work and its schedule;
- state the expected cost of the project;
- give the expected number of workers allocated to the project on both the physical and social environments.

2 The impact assessment statement will be concise and will, in all cases, include the following items:

• justification

objectives;
importance of completing the project according to the schedule submitted;

• precise description of project:

phases, construction and operation;
possible alternatives for the project or its components;

• description of the physical and social environments:

the pertinent aspects directly related to the decision on the project;

• impacts on the physical and social environments:

positive, negative and residual impacts;

• remedial and corrective measures:

the promoter's arrangements concerning necessary corrective measures and their schedules.

The guidelines issued by **Environment Quebec** for each project submitted will provide the promoter with the major points required for each chapter.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING DEADLINES IN THE PROCEDURE

4.1 Preliminary Information

The preliminary information on a project should be submitted to **Environment Quebec** sufficiently in advance so that the **Commission** will have the information in its possession at least fifteen (15) days before its next sitting (see schedule below).

4.2 Review of Impact Assessment Statement

As with the preliminary information, the **Commission** must receive the impact assessment statement via the **Ministry of Environment** at least fifteen (15) days before its next meeting.

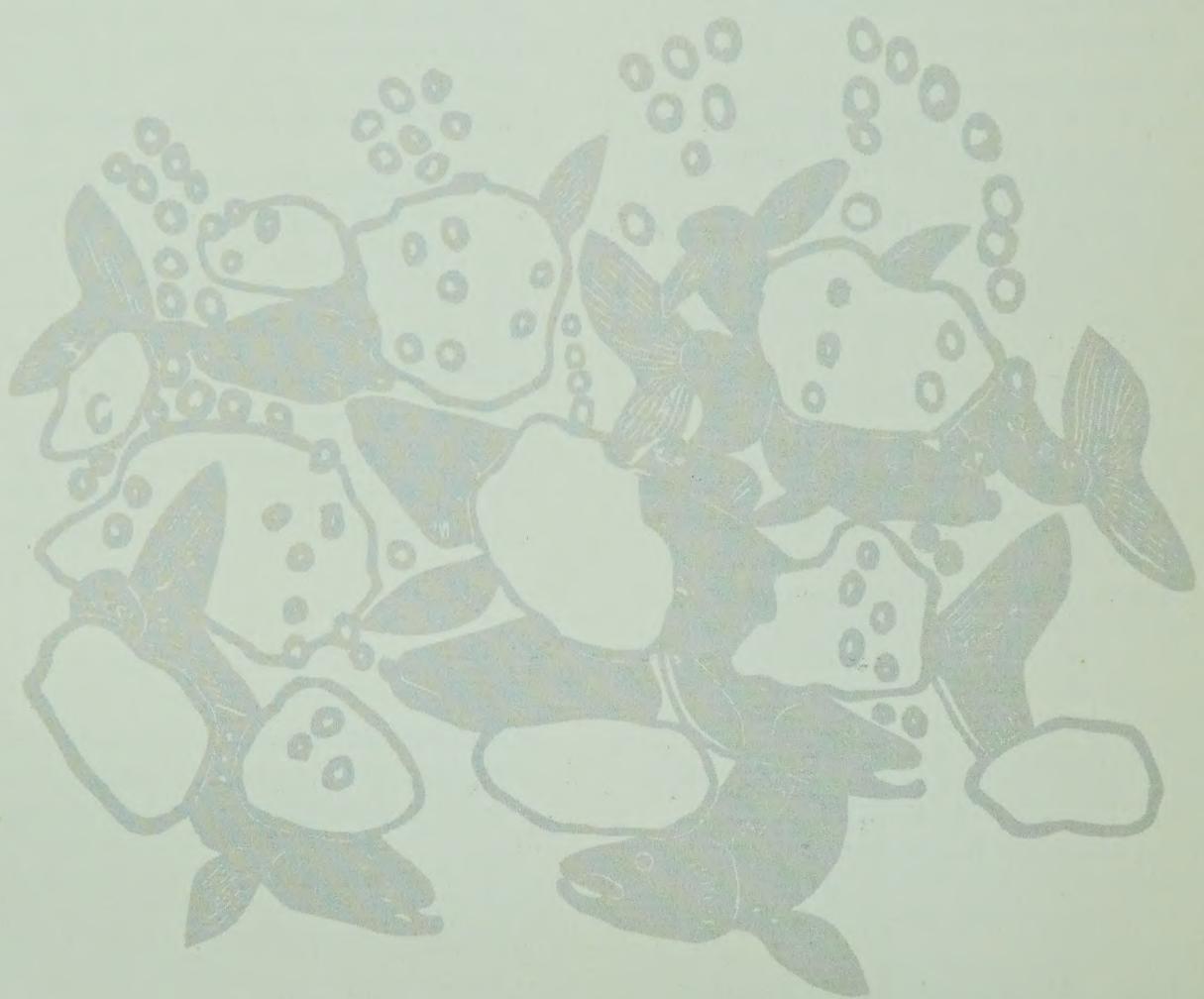
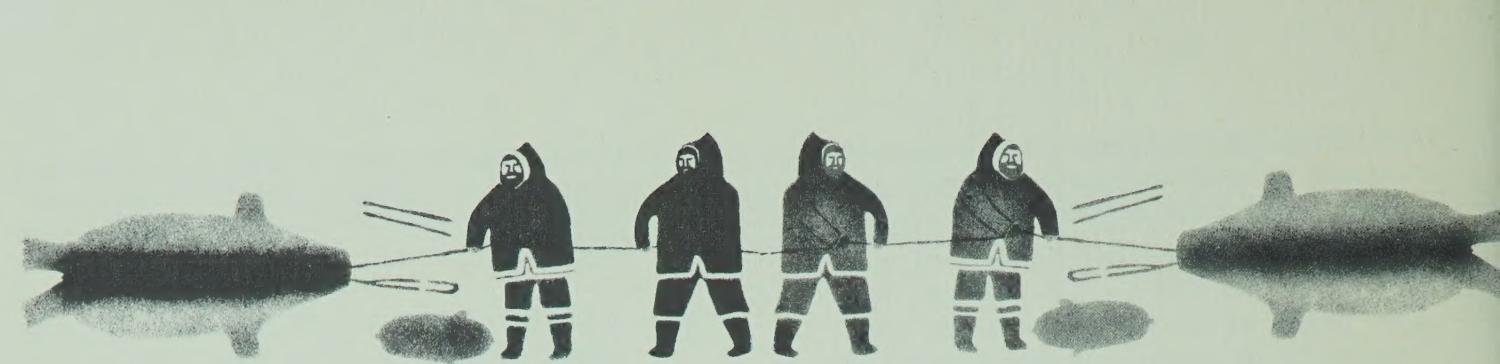
5. SCHEDULE OF COMMISSION MEETINGS

1. Late January	5. Early August
2. Early March	6. Mid-September
3. Mid-April	7. Mid-October
4. Early June	8. Late November

For further information please contact:

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